

Family and  
Protective Services  
**Council Meeting**

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**November 13, 2020**  
**9:00 a.m.**



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Department of Family  
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# Council Organizational Items

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**Hon. Bonnie Hellums**



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# General Administrative Items



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# Council Meeting Schedule

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**February 12, 2021**

**May 14, 2021**

**August 13, 2021**

**November 12, 2021**



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# Council Workgroup Reports



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# DFPS Update

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**Commissioner  
Jaime Masters**



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Update on the  
**DFPS Response  
to COVID 19**

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**Stephen Black**  
**Statewide Intake**



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# CPI Intakes per Month, 2017-2020



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Month	2020	2019	2018	2017
March	22,839	24,988	27,304	26,524
April	16,150	28,356	27,582	26,944
May	18,662	27,958	27,196	29,065
June	19,236	18,814	19,595	20,997
July	19,599	20,142	19,715	20,297
August	20,934	23,599	23,420	22,352
September	23,910	27,214	25,505	25,372

Source: CPS Reports of Child Abuse/Neglect taken by SWI (fps\_int\_swi\_02).  
Data Warehouse.

# DCCI Intakes per Month, 2017-2020



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Month	2020	2019	2018	2017
March	136	185	162	247
April	68	214	199	177
May	98	193	206	234
June	138	145	168	202
July	150	139	182	211
August	138	179	198	214
September	160	198	164	207

Source: Licensed Day Care Facility Reports of A/N taken by SWI (fps\_int\_swi\_06). Data Warehouse.

# E-reports per Month, 2017-2020



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Month	2020	2019	2018	2017
March	10,306	11,690	14,249	15,967
April	6,035	13,594	15,193	17,114
May	5,717	11,969	13,639	17,078
June	6,357	7,167	7,936	10,108
July	6,604	7,571	7,348	9,903
August	7,656	8,610	9,928	10,436
September	10,326	13,404	13,486	15,102

Source: SWI Daily E-Reports (swi\_11). Data Warehouse.

# RCCI Intakes per Month, 2017-2020



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Month	2020	2019	2018	2017
March	258	184	164	236
April	251	231	159	184
May	307	193	189	294
June	335	175	138	225
July	270	268	153	200
August	352	218	146	165
September	346	241	265	194

Source: Residential Child Care Facility Reports of Abuse/Neglect taken by SWI (fps\_int\_swi\_07). Data Warehouse.

# APS Intakes per Month, 2017-2020



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Month	2020	2019	2018	2017
March	9,614	8,977	8,974	9,620
April	8,445	9,637	8,824	8,725
May	9,159	10,511	9,809	10,042
June	10,369	10,545	10,393	10,765
July	10,854	11,068	10,821	10,428
August	10,227	11,093	11,258	11,115
September	9,901	9,705	9,191	9,691

Source: APS Reports of Abuse/Neglect/Exploitation taken by SWI (fps\_int\_swi\_03). Data Warehouse.

Update on the  
**DFPS Response  
to COVID 19**

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**Sasha Rasco**  
**Prevention and Early  
Intervention**



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# **PEI's COVID-19 Response**

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**November 13, 2020**  
**DFPS Council Meeting**



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# Resources for Providers



Texas Department of  
Family and Protective Services

Coronavirus Resources | En Español

Search



Report Abuse



## Coronavirus Resources for PEI Stakeholders and Providers

- 3/13/20 – Message to PEI Providers with tips for navigating services during the pandemic.
- 3/18/20 – PEI Provider Guidance for communities affected by COVID-19 including eligible activities, steps for fee-for-service grantees and cost reimbursement grantees, entry into PEI's data system
- 3/30/20 – FAQ for PEI Providers updating information on initial guidance.
- 5/14/20 – PEI Provider Guidance on navigating services as Texas began to reopen.
- 7/31/20 – PEI Provider Guidance providing flexibility around parent/guardian signatures on client enrollment form for new program participants.
- 8/06/20 – PEI Provider Guidance providing a clarifying statement on flexibility

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## 3/18/20 Provider Guidance

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Eligible Activities for fee-for-service and cost reimbursement grantees to support children, youth, families, and communities:

- Virtual Supports to Families
- Parenting Support Options
- Technological Support Options
- Public Awareness Activities
- Staff Support and Potential Activities

All grantees have included a brief summary in their quarterly reports explaining the impact of COVID-19.



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## 3/30/20 FAQ

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Provided more explicit direction around:

- Use of gift cards for basic needs support;
- Staff pay and organizational response; and
- Modifying some contract/model requirements for family meetings.

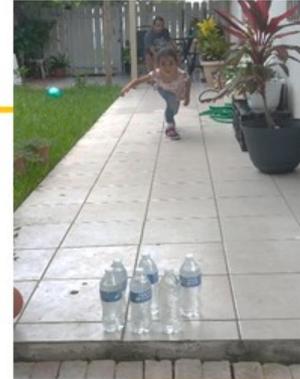
Our underlying message:

PEI recognizes that families and organizations need maximum flexibility in order to be responsive to the needs of each community.

# Early Childhood Programs



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# Youth and Family Programs



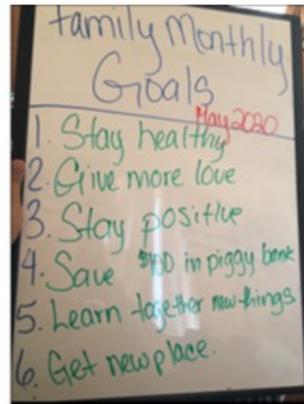
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"Back in December 2019 I started the Stay Together Program...the day I met Mercy I was a mess physically and emotionally. Mercy came to my rescue. That very first day I met her she helped me look at my problems very different. Here are also some photos of the beautiful things Mercy has taught us do as a family. She's been a blessing to our family. Thanks to all her help and support I have my kids with me and my life has turn out better than I ever though it would. I'm in tears while I write this...because from all the people around me, Mercy has been one of the few that never gave up on me. She always believes I have the potential to be more." -Midland, TX <sup>6</sup>



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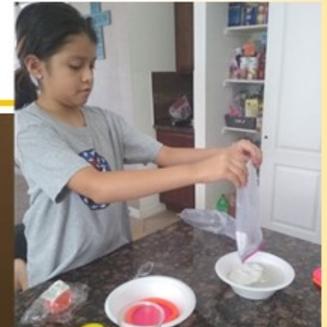
Big Brothers Big Sisters  
**JIGSAW PUZZLE**      **200  
PIECES**



**BUY A PUZZLE, GIVE A PUZZLE!**



11



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# Violence Prevention Advisory Group



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## CONNECTION DURING ISOLATION: NEXT STEPS FOR PREVENTION IN TEXAS



**Sasha Rasco**  
Associate  
Commissioner,  
Prevention and Early  
Intervention Division,  
Texas Department of  
Family and Protective  
Services



**Jeremy Triplett**  
Maternal and Child  
Health Section Director,  
Texas Department of  
State Health Services



**Katie Olse**  
Chief Executive Officer,  
Texas Alliance of Child  
and Family Services



**Dorothy Mandell,  
PhD**  
Assistant Professor,  
University of Texas Health Sciences  
Center at Tyler & Population Health  
at University of Texas System  
Administration



**Courtney  
Harvey, PhD**  
Associate Commissioner,  
Office of Mental Health  
Coordination,  
Texas Health and Human  
Services



**Sophie Phillips,  
LMSW**  
Chief Executive Officer,  
TexProtects



**Jeff R.  
Temple, PhD**  
Professor and Director,  
Center for Violence  
Prevention,  
UTMB Health

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# Provider Updates

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## Programs Supporting Families with Young Children

- Early Childhood coalitions are doing really well since many community members can join virtually
- Still mostly virtual services.
- Seeing tech needs to keep clients engaged.
- Purchasing of items for frequent and meaningful kits for porch drop off continues.
- Providers have reported success with family engagement through word of mouth about the programs as well as social media outreach.

## Programs Supporting Families with Youth

- Still mostly virtual services.
- Providers facing challenges with recruitment and retention of participants.
- Providers have gotten innovative in engagement.
- We've heard in a handful of stories of reengagement and partnership with schools after schools began in the fall.



## COVID-19: HELP FOR PARENTS TO WEATHER THE CORONAVIRUS CRISIS

Home > Coronavirus > This Page

### A Message to Parents and Caregivers About Coronavirus

We are all currently facing uncharted waters due to the coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak. These changes to how families live, work, go to school and play are occurring rapidly and they are hard. Even at the best of times, change creates stress. It is more important than ever that we have realistic expectations about what all of these changes mean for our current daily lives and pay attention to how they are impacting our families. [\[read more\]](#)



### Real Help, Right Now

- [Family and Youth Success Program](#): If you feel overwhelmed, upset, or need to talk to someone, contact the [Family and Youth Success Program](#) (FAYS) to immediately connect with someone and get real answers 24/7. [\[learn more\]](#)
- [Texas Youth Helpline](#): Call, text, or chat 24/7 at the [Texas Youth Helpline](#), which provides support to youth, parents of children 0-17, siblings and other family members who are in need of a caring voice and sympathetic ear. Trained volunteers are on call to provide guidance, referral information or simply listen. [\[learn more\]](#)

COVID-19  
RESOURCE BANK  
REAL TALK  
SCREEN TIME  
EMERGENCY PLAN  
PARENT TO PARENT  
MESSAGE TO CAREGIVERS

### HELP WHERE YOU ARE

Find the Family and Youth Success (FAYS) Program near you.

Where do you live?

Choose your county

### SHARE YOUR STORY

Tell us how your family is managing the stress of the Coronavirus crisis. Do you have advice or resources that can help others?

 Let us know



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# Thank you

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**Sasha Rasco**  
**Associate Commissioner**  
**Prevention and Early Intervention**

Update on the  
**DFPS Response  
to COVID 19**

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**Deneen Dryden**  
**Child Protective Services**



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Update on the  
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**Jim Sylvester**  
**Child Protective Investigations**



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Responding to  
and Preventing  
**Youth Suicides  
and Firearm  
Fatalities**

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**Sasha Rasco, PEI  
Stephen Black, SWI**



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# Responding to and Preventing Youth Suicides and Firearm Fatalities

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**Sasha Rasco**

Associate Commissioner  
Prevention and Early  
Intervention

**Stephen Black**

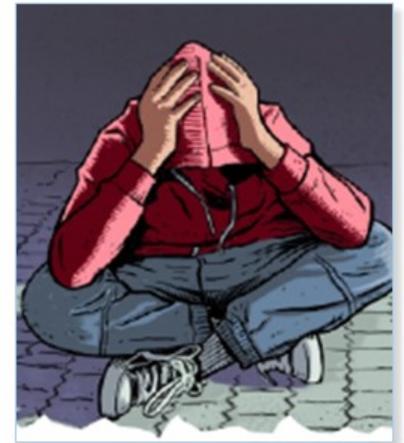
Associate Commissioner  
Statewide Intake

# Overview



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- Teen suicide stats.
- Youth Helpline's role in responding.
- PEI's role in responding.
- Building Partnerships.



# Key Themes in Data Surrounding Suicides by Youth

- In Texas, suicides by youth (under age 18) have significantly increased over the last decade.
- Between FY2011 and FY2018, the number of suicides increased by 77 percent.
- The majority of suicides are not reported/investigated by DFPS. Of those that are reported to DFPS for investigation, 8% have been confirmed to involve abuse or neglect in the suicide. This is often either a direct result of the abuse or neglect or that the parent/caregiver knew that the youth had suicidal ideations and did not seek medical care to address the concern.
- DSHS has released focused information on suicides for youth (less than 25 years old) that demonstrates that at both the state and national level, there has been an **overall increase in suicides**.



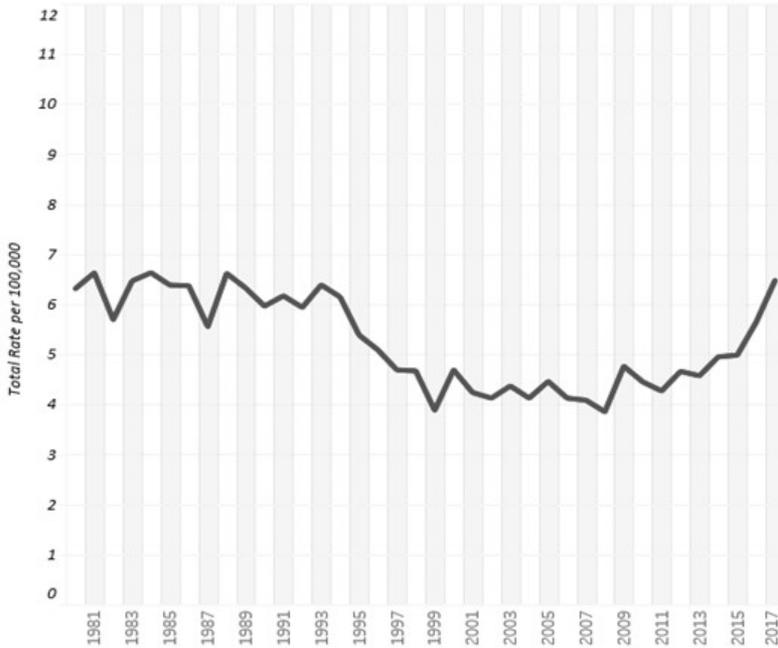
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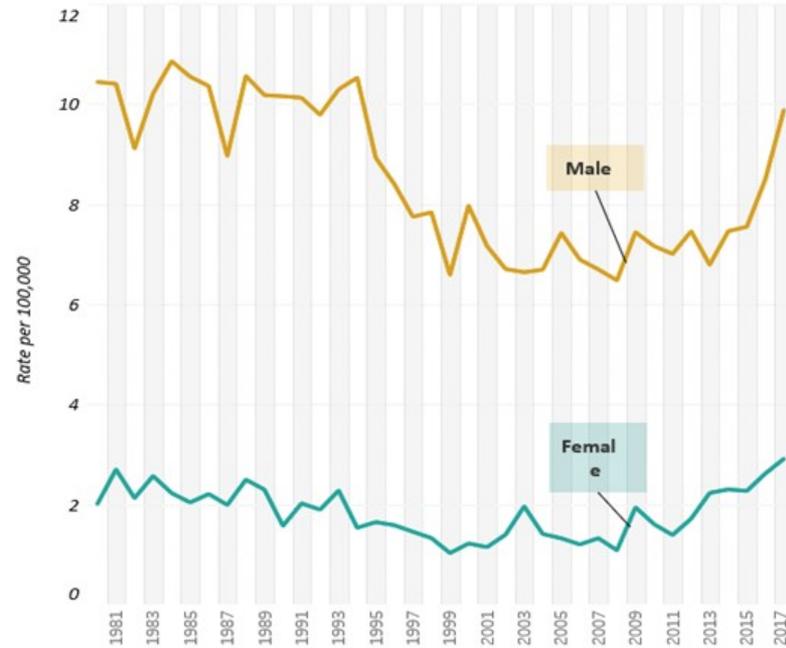
# DSHS Data

**Suicide rates for all ages are increasing and youth suicides in Texas are following a similar pattern:**

All youth suicide rates

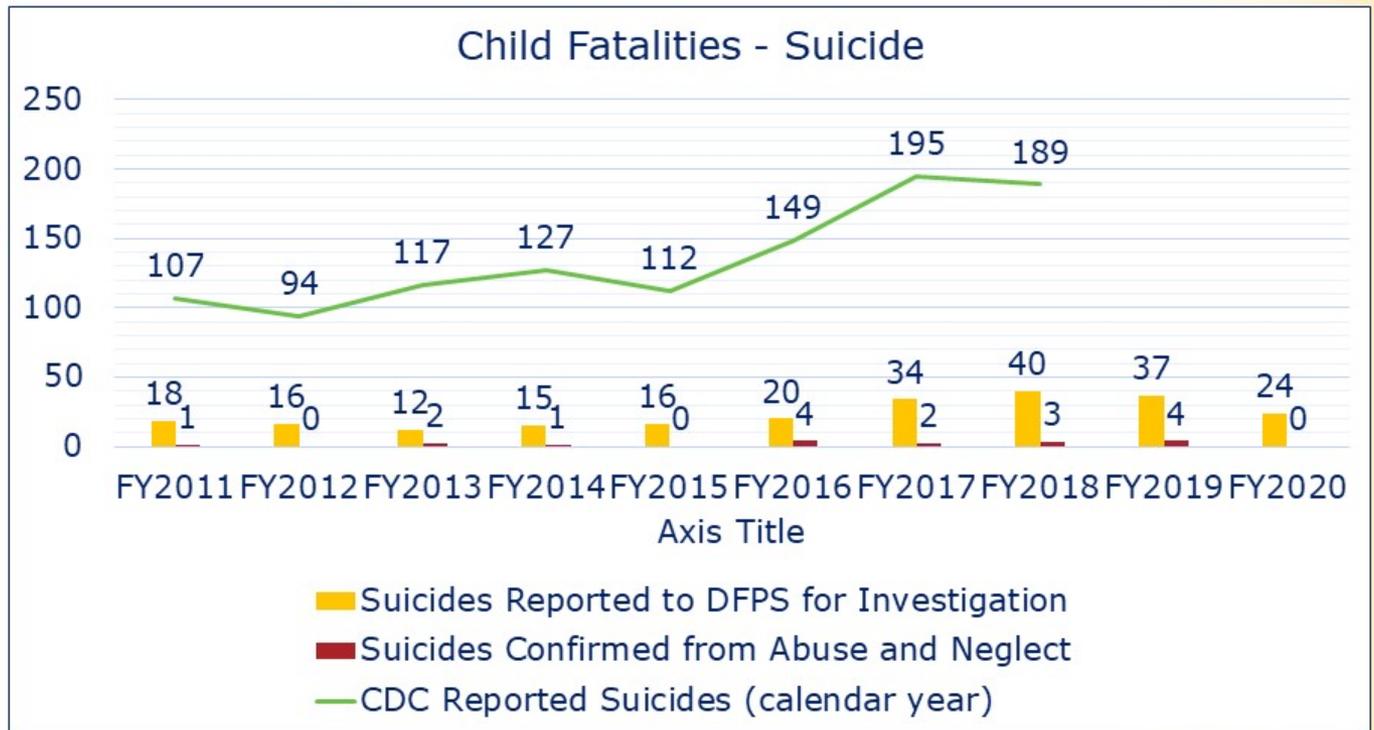


Youth suicide rates by gender



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# Historical Child Fatality Investigations



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# What Should We Be Concerned With?

Here's initial guidance DFPS shared with educators around making reports to the hotline.



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## Virtual Child Safety Tip Sheet for Educators

Thank you for all you are doing for Texas students during these unprecedented times. Our schools continue to play an important role in ensuring the safety of children. As you engage with your students, please consider these factors, as some signs of maltreatment that you have been trained to notice may still be present, even virtually.

- Is the child frequently alone in the residence when you are working/checking with them? Or are they being made to be responsible for other children in the home?
- Does the parent/caregiver appear overly stressed or frightened?
- Have you noticed a significant change in the child's mood or behavior?
- Has the child eaten today?



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# Texas Abuse Hotline Types of Calls



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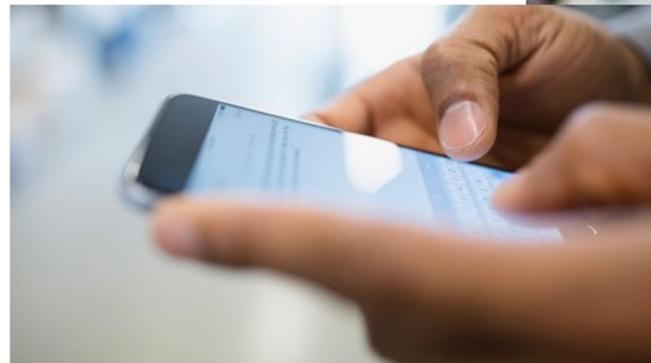
## Reporting Abuse, Neglect and Exploitation

### Report by:

**Phone: 1-800-252-5400**

Call the Texas DFPS Abuse Hotline toll-free 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, nationwide.

NOTE: Online reporting should **never** be used if the concern is about a suicidal child.





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## Texas Youth Helpline

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- 24/7 helpline to support children, youth, and families.
- Provides referrals to community resources.



**800-989-6884**



**512-872-5777**



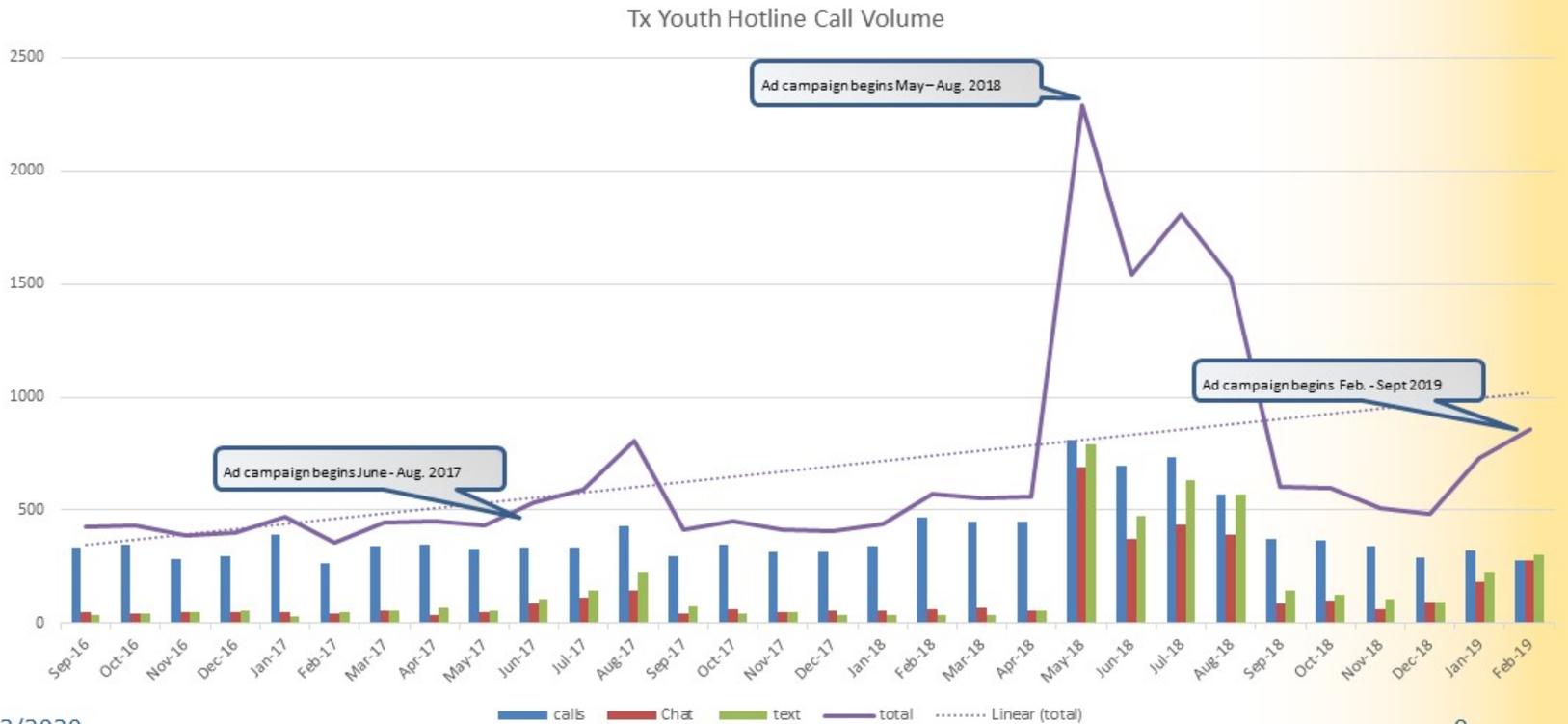
**CHAT**

**GET ANSWERS!**

CHILDREN, TEENAGERS, AND PARENTS - LET US HELP YOU FIND SOLUTIONS.



# Youth Helpline Call Volume



# Ad Campaign



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Texas Youth Helpline  
Sponsored · 🌐

Being stuck at home together can be stressful. Struggling with a teen can put everyone over the edge. You're not alone. We connect parents and teens to counselors and resources every day. Call, text or chat. It's free and confidential.



DFPS.STATE.TX.US/YOUTH\_HELPLINE  
Call, text or chat.  
Contact us anytime, day or night.

Contact Us

👍 Like    💬 Comment    ➦ Share

Texas Youth Helpline

Written by Sherry Matthews Marketing · 📅 April 17 at 1:52 PM · 🌐

Feeling alone and scared? Being stuck at home all day, every day can make things worse. We're here to listen and help find resources. Free and confidential. Call. Text. Chat.



DFPS.STATE.TX.US/YOUTH\_HELPLINE  
Call, text or chat.  
Contact us anytime, day or night.

Contact Us

The world has changed. School. Friends. Home. It's all different, and that

Texas Youth Helpline  
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Life may be more stressful these days, but you're not alone. We're here to listen and connect you with resources that can help—whenever you're ready. Free and confidential. Call. Text. Chat.



DFPS.STATE.TX.US/YOUTH\_HELPLINE  
Call, text or chat.  
Contact us anytime, day or night.

Contact Us



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# **Prevention Efforts**

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# Help and Hope

The screenshot shows the top section of the Help and Hope website. On the left is the logo with the text "HELP FOR PARENTS. HOPE FOR KIDS." and a hand icon. To the right of the logo are the links "CORONAVIRUS RESOURCES / ESPAÑOL" and a search bar. Below these are social media sharing icons for Facebook, Email, YouTube, and Twitter, with the text "SHARE if you CARE". A horizontal navigation bar contains the following links: "FIND HELP", "PARENTING TIPS", "WATER SAFETY", "SAFE SLEEP", "CHILD SAFETY", "HOW YOU CAN HELP", and "FAQ". Below the navigation bar is a featured article with a photo of a man and a child looking at a laptop. The article title is "COVID-19: HELP FOR PARENTS TO WEATHER THE CRISIS".

From April – October  
HelpandHope.org  
had more than  
**1.4 million visitors**

11/12/2020

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# Help and Hope



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Help and Hope

Yesterday at 11:11 AM · 🌐

Keep kids safe around guns and keep guns safely away from curious hands.

For more info, visit: [tinyurl.com/GunSafetyHH](https://tinyurl.com/GunSafetyHH)

#KeepYourFirearmsSafe ... See More

## FIREARM SAFETY TIP



**Hiding spots  
may not be  
secret.**

#KeepYourFirearmsSafe



Help and Hope

October 14 at 6:00 PM · 🌐

Younger kids can't tell the difference between a toy and a real gun.

Talk to your child about what they should do if they see a gun:

- Don't touch it
- Leave the area where the gun is
- Find and tell an adult

Get tips here: [tinyurl.com/GunSafeHH](https://tinyurl.com/GunSafeHH)... See More

**Teach little ones  
that guns  
are not toys.**

#KeepYourFirearmsSafe



## FIREARM SAFETY TIP



Help and Hope

October 20 at 7:00 PM · 🌐

Properly storing your firearm keeps your family safe and helps prevent tragic accidents.

For more #gunsafety tips, visit: [tinyurl.com/GunSafeHH](https://tinyurl.com/GunSafeHH)

#keepemsafetexas



## FIREARM SAFETY TIP

**Keep your firearm  
unloaded  
when not in use.**

#KeepYourFirearmsSafe





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# Help and Hope



Help and Hope

October 23 at 6:30 PM · 🌐

Bullying Hurts. At least 40% of Texas kids who were bullied or cyber bullied have seriously considered suicide. If you need someone to talk to, the Texas Youth Helpline is available 24/7 for free:

[dfps.state.tx.us/Youth\\_Helpline](https://dfps.state.tx.us/Youth_Helpline)

Call: 1-800-989-6884

Text: 512-872-5777... See More

**BULLYING HURTS**

1 in 5  
kids are bullied

5 in 5  
can help prevent it

HELP FOR PARENTS.  
HOPE FOR KIDS.



Help and Hope

October 15 at 7:00 PM · 🌐

Take thoughtful action to prevent bullying in the world by learning how to make your kid feel more confident at:

[tinyurl.com/ConfidenceHH](https://tinyurl.com/ConfidenceHH)

#BullyingPreventionMonth

HOW WILL YOU CHANGE  
YOUR WORLD TODAY?

Tell someone they  
are important  
to you.

HELP FOR PARENTS.  
HOPE FOR KIDS.



Help and Hope

October 29 at 12:00 PM · 🌐

All youth need caring adults in their lives. This is especially true for those facing bullying.

To learn more about how to support a bullied youth, click below.

#BullyingPreventionMonth

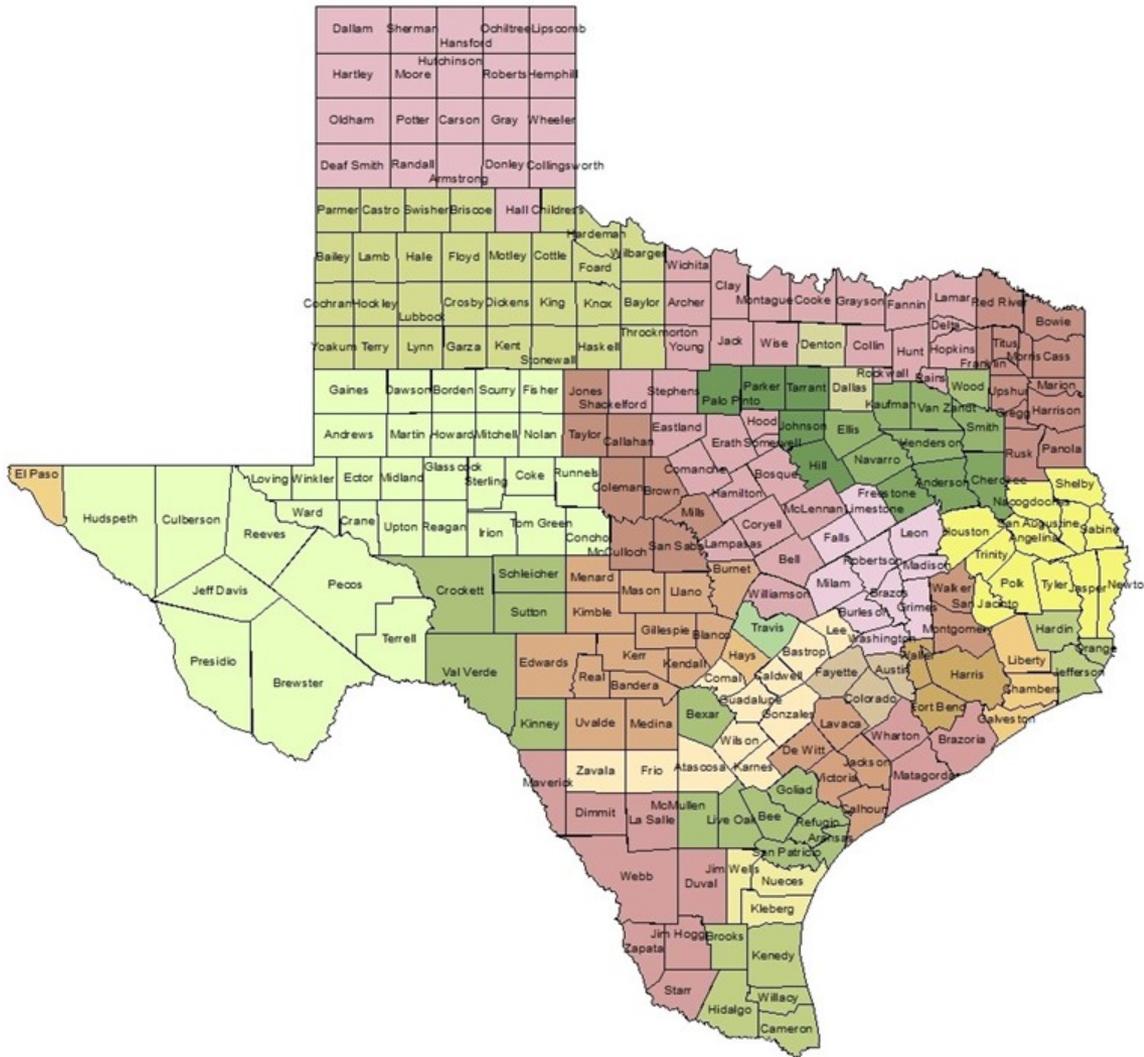




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# **PEI Programs Providing Support to Families and Youth**

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# Family And Youth Success Program (FAYS)

# Family and Youth Success Program



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## Can I get FAYS services for free?

Yes! The State of Texas provides funding and other resources to local organizations so that they can offer services and support to families in their communities free of charge.

Help is confidential.



## LOCAL PROGRAMS

### Find FAYS in a county (city) near you

- ★ Angelina (Lufkin) 800-256-6848
- ★ Bexar (San Antonio) 210-283-5183
- ★ Brazoria (Angleton) 979-849-7751
- ★ Brazos (Bryan) 800-865-9921
- ★ Cameron (Harlingen) 888-599-0759
- ★ Cherokee (Rusk) 903-586-3175
- ★ Colorado (Columbus) 979-732-8355
- ★ Comal (New Braunfels) 800-532-8192
- ★ Denton and Dallas 888-837-0666
- ★ El Paso 915-565-5021
- ★ Galveston 409-762-8636
- ★ Gregg (Longview) 866-782-7031
- ★ Harris (Houston) 713-664-3459
- ★ Hays (San Marcos) 512-754-0500
- ★ Hidalgo (McAllen) 866-480-0772
- ★ Jefferson (Beaumont) 409-861-0582
- ★ Kerr (Kerrville) 830-896-5404
- ★ Lubbock (Lubbock) 806-765-8475
- ★ Midland and Odessa 800-922-7829
- ★ Montgomery (Conroe) 888-756-8682
- ★ Nueces (Corpus Christi) 361-852-3812
- ★ Potter (Amarillo) 806-359-2005
- ★ Smith (Tyler) 903-581-2835
- ★ Tarrant 888-296-8099
- ★ Taylor (Abilene) 325-437-1852
- ★ Tom Green (San Angelo) 325-947-7233
- ★ Travis (Austin) 512-735-2400
- ★ Victoria (Victoria) 361-575-7842
- ★ Webb (Laredo) 956-568-7105
- ★ Williamson, Erath, Collin, and Wichita Falls 512-388-8290

## FAYS

### Family and Youth Success Program



## Who do we serve?

The Family and Youth Success program serves families with children who are 6–17 years of age.

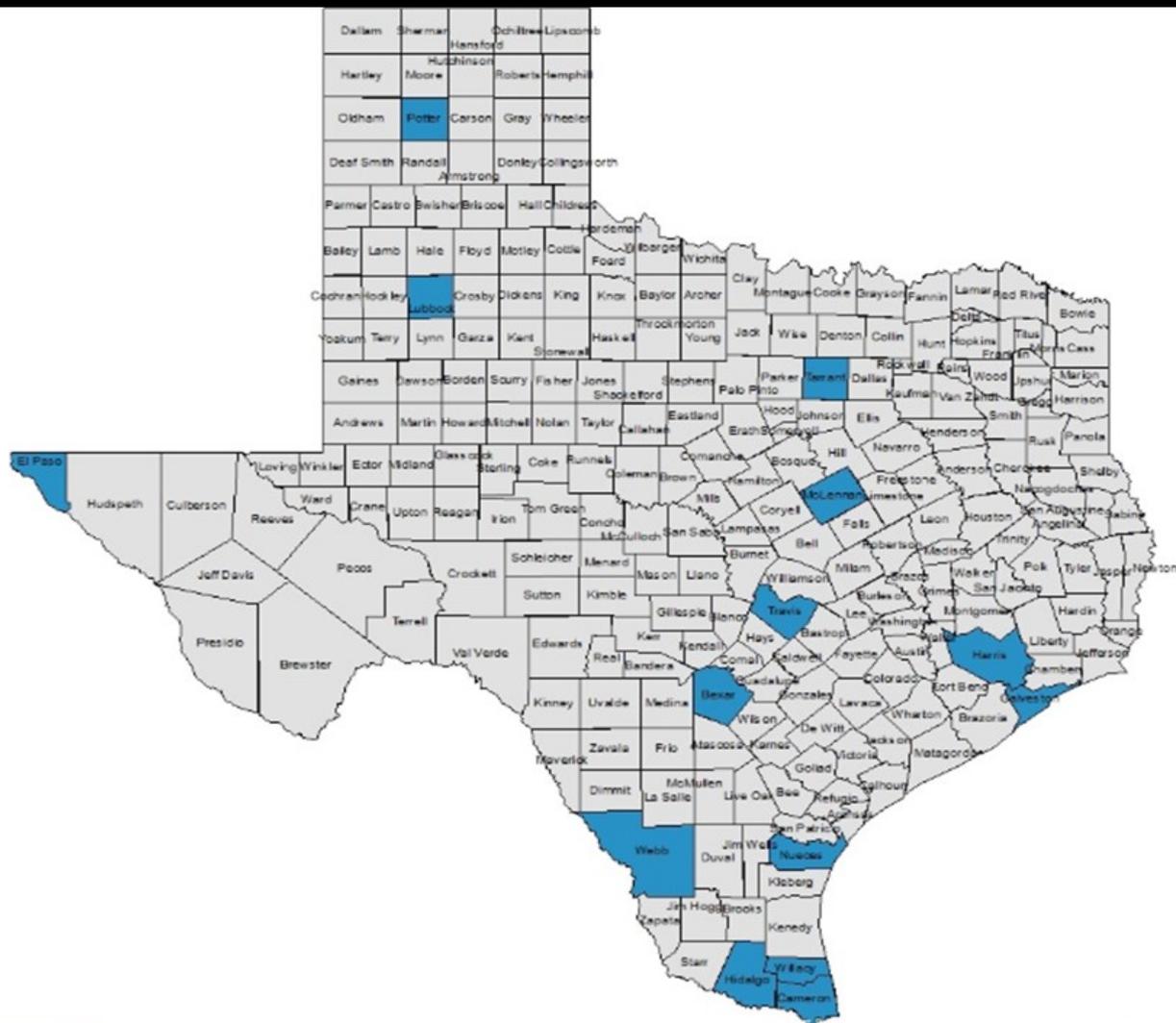


*"It works. And they know how to work with people in different situations and can help find out the best way to help your family."*

**– FAYS program participant**

[https://www.dfps.state.tx.us/Prevention\\_and\\_Early\\_Intervention/Providers/default.asp](https://www.dfps.state.tx.us/Prevention_and_Early_Intervention/Providers/default.asp)

11/12/2020



# Community Youth Development (CYD)



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## Building Partnerships

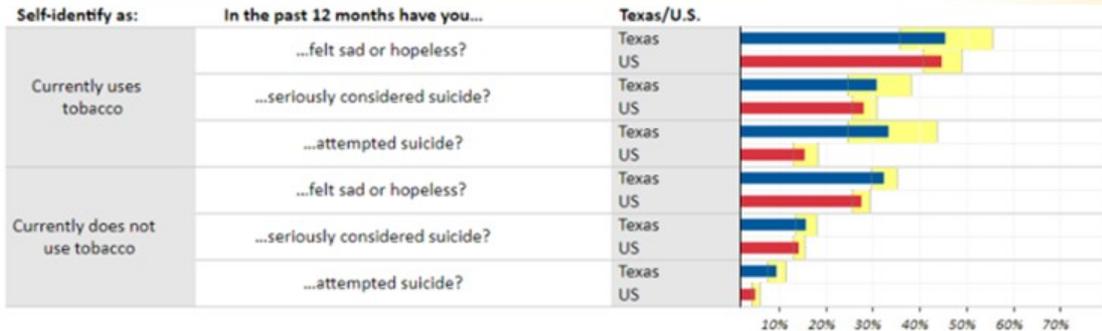
- Educators
- Violence Prevention Advisory Group
- Medical Professionals
- HHSC Office of Mental Health  
Coordination – Suicide Prevention  
Initiatives

# Influencing Factors – Who is at Risk?

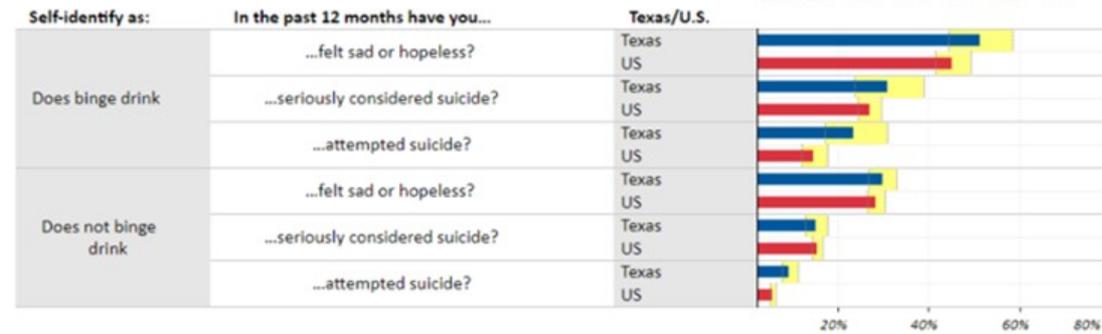


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## Tobacco



## Binge Drinking\*

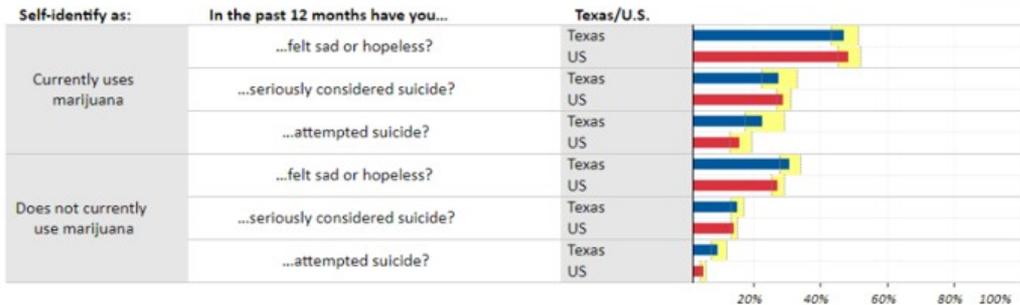


# Influencing Factors – Who is at Risk?

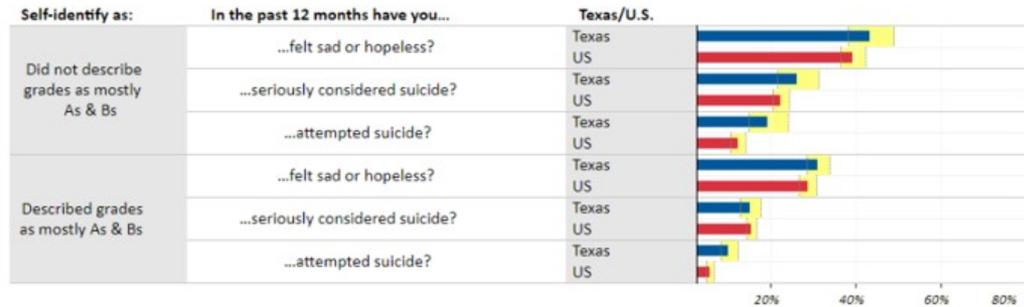


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## Marijuana



## Grades

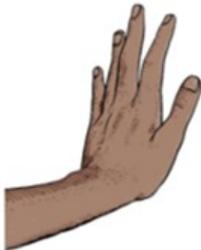


# Influencing Factors – Who is at Risk?

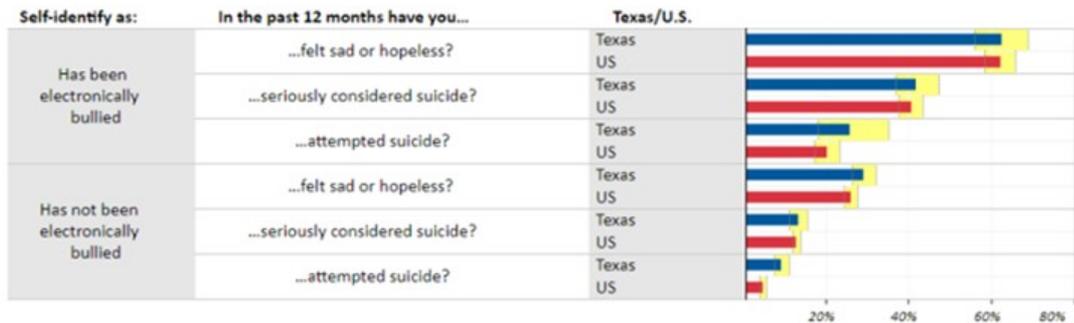
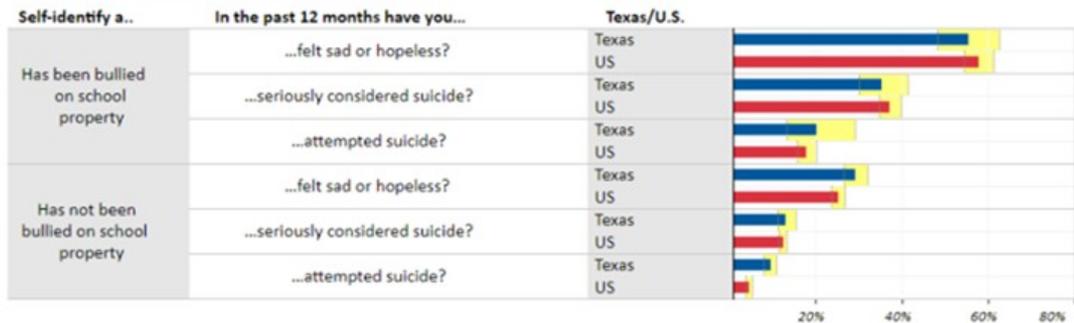


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## Bullied (in the past 12 months)



## Cyber Bullied (in the past 12 months)



# Influencing Factors – Who is at Risk?



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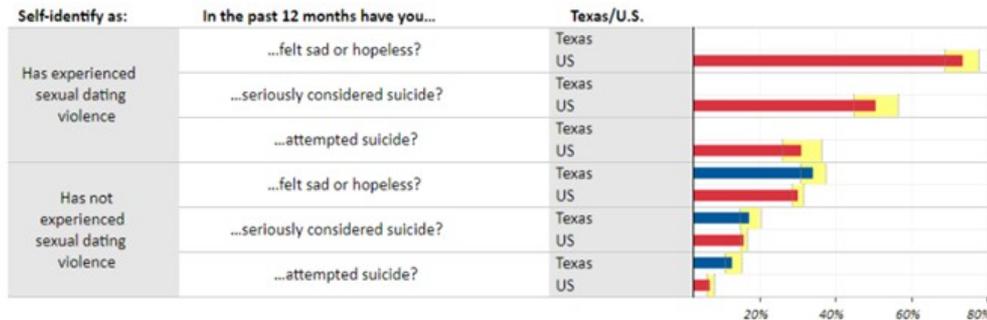
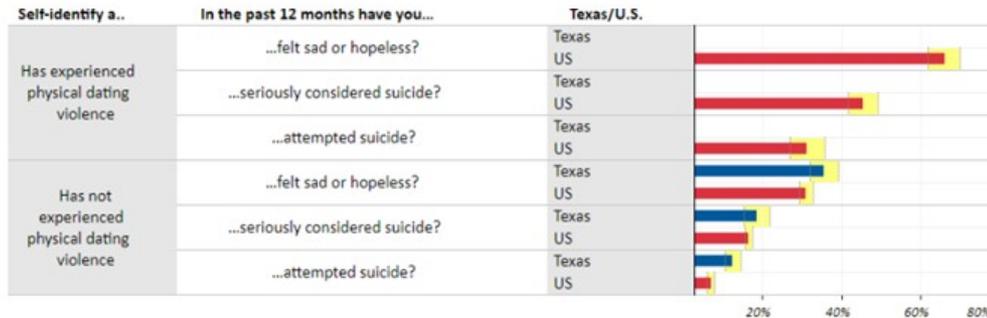
## Physical Dating Violence

(in the past 12 months)



## Sexual Dating Violence

(in the past 12 months)



# Influencing Factors – Who is at Risk?



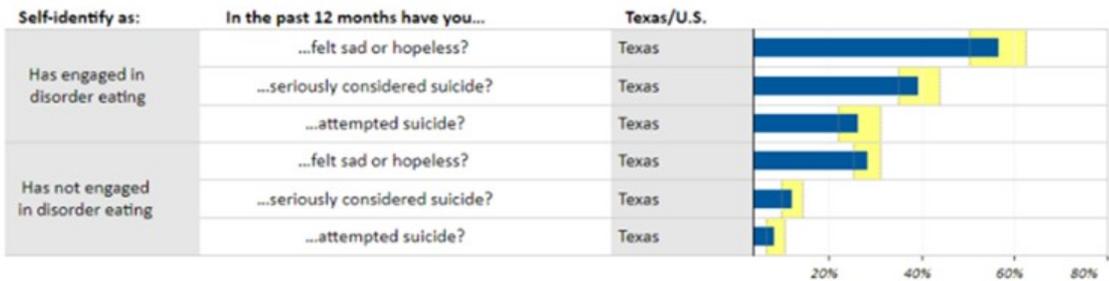
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## Sexual Orientation



## Disordered Eating \*\*

Data was not available for the U.S.



11/12/2020

# Texas Suicide Prevention HOTLINES



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## The Suicide Prevention Lifeline

- Call: 800-273-8255 (800-273-TALK)
- Chat online: [suicidepreventionlifeline.org](https://suicidepreventionlifeline.org)
- Support for people who are deaf and hard of hearing: 800-799-4889
- La Red Nacional de Prevención del Suicidio: 888-628-9454

## Crisis Text Line

- Crisis Text Line provides free, 24/7 crisis support and trains volunteers to support people in crisis.
- Text: TX to 741741 for free, 24/7 crisis support in the U.S.
- Visit: [crisistextline.org](https://crisistextline.org)

# Texas Suicide Prevention HOTLINES



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and Protective Services

## Support for Veterans and Their Loved Ones

- The Veterans Crisis Line connects veterans in crisis and their families and friends with qualified, caring, confidential support 24/7
- Call: 800-273-8255 and Press 1
- Chat online: [veteranscrisisline.net](https://veteranscrisisline.net)
- Send a text message: 838255
- Support for people who are [deaf and hard of hearing](#).

## The Trevor Project

- The Trevor Project is the leading national organization providing crisis intervention and suicide prevention services to lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer and questioning young people under 25.
- Chat online: [thetrevorproject.org](https://thetrevorproject.org)
- Call: 866-488-7386
- Text: START to 678678

# [texassuicideprevention.org](http://texassuicideprevention.org)



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TEXAS  
SUICIDE  
PREVENTION  
COLLABORATIVE™

11/12/2020



## Suicide Prevention

TEXAS Health and Human Services

### How can I help?

If someone you know is...

- **Talking** about wanting to die or wanting to kill themselves
- **Planning** or looking for a way to kill themselves, such as searching online
- **Buying** a firearm or stockpiling pills
- **Talking** about feeling empty, hopeless or like there's no reason to live
- **Feeling** trapped or in unbearable pain
- **Talking** about being a burden to others
- **Increasing** the use of alcohol or drugs
- **Acting** anxious or agitated or behaving recklessly
- **Sleeping** too little or too much
- **Withdrawing** from family or friends or feeling isolated
- **Showing** rage or talking about revenge
- **Displaying** extreme mood swings
- **Saying** goodbye to loved ones and putting affairs in order

**It's very important to act right away:**

- 1. Ask about thoughts or plans for suicide:**  
"Are you having thoughts about suicide?" "Are you thinking about killing yourself?"
- 2. Listen and be nonjudgmental.**  
Let them know you care about them.
- 3. Believe what they say.**  
Take words and actions seriously.
- 4. Offer hope.**  
Help them think of reasons to live or ways to keep safe.
- 5. Get help.**  
Stay with them until help is available.



## Suicide Prevention

TEXAS Health and Human Services

### RESOURCES

- Call 2-1-1 and press 8 or visit [211.texas.org](http://211.texas.org).
- If you call 9-1-1, ask for a mental health officer.
- Find local mental health authority crisis numbers at [bit.ly/HHSmentalhealthcrisis](http://bit.ly/HHSmentalhealthcrisis).
- Call the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline 24/7 at 800-273-8255 (TALK) or visit [SuicidePrevention.Lifeline.org](http://SuicidePrevention.Lifeline.org) for information or to live chat.
- Call the Veterans Crisis Line at 800-273-8255 and press 1.
- Text TX to 741-741 to reach the Crisis Text Line. Visit [CrisisTextLine.org](http://CrisisTextLine.org) to learn more.
- Call the Trevor Project 24/7 (for LGBTQ young people) at 866-488-7386, text START to 678678 or chat online at [TheTrevorProject.org/get-help-now](http://TheTrevorProject.org/get-help-now).
- Take a training. Visit [hhs.texas.gov](http://hhs.texas.gov) and search for "Mental Health First Aid" or "suicide prevention."

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# Thank you

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**Sasha Rasco**

Associate Commissioner  
Prevention and Early Intervention

**Stephen Black**

Associate Commissioner  
Statewide Intake

# Public Comment



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and Protective Services

# Closing Remarks

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**Hon. Bonnie Hellums**



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Family and  
Protective Services  
**Council Meeting**

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**November 13, 2020**



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